

St Peter's Church Alstonefield Burial Policy

Who has the legal right to be buried or to have their ashes interred in St Peter's Churchyard?

- a) lived in the parish at the time of their death; or
 - b) died in the parish; or
 - c) was on the church electoral roll of the parish at the time of their death; or
 - d) spouse, parent or child of a person already buried in St Peter's Churchyard, if they are being buried/interred in the family grave; or
 - e) left permanent residence in Alstonefield for the sole reason of needing nursing or residential care -
- has the legal right to be buried, or have their ashes interred, in any consecrated burial ground forming part of the churchyard of St Peter's Church or other consecrated burial ground belonging to the Church.

If for some strong pastoral reason, a person wished to be buried in St Peter's Churchyard, but they are not covered by the above, the PCC would meet to decide whether to give consent.

Funeral Policy

Under Church of England policy, everyone is entitled to a funeral service in their local parish church led by their local parish priest, regardless of whether they have attended church or not.

If you are a regular worshipper at St Peter's, you may be comfortable with the Anglican funeral service as a chance to mark the end of a person's life here on earth. Family and friends come together to express grief, give thanks for the life lived and to commend the person into God's keeping. It can be anything from a small, quiet ceremony at the graveside to a large occasion in a packed church.

However, if you or the deceased have never attended a church, or do not want an Anglican service, the minister and the church wardens will do all they can to accommodate your wishes.

We can offer a more modern funeral, to include secular readings and music, such as a favourite poem or a favourite song played on a CD. In fact many regular worshippers will mix and match between secular readings and music and the traditional liturgy.

For centuries, St Peter's has tried to meet the spiritual needs of the parish; as a place to celebrate life, marriage and death, to be a place of worship and prayer and to embrace the life and welfare of the community. We want to continue this tradition.